

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Arizona Game and Fish Commission  
Friday, April 20, 2001 – 12:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 21, 2001 – 8:00 a.m.  
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #2  
12851 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ

PRESENT: (Commission)

Director's Staff

Chairman Dennis D. Manning  
Commissioner Michael M. Golightly  
Commissioner Joe Carter  
Commissioner Sue Chilton  
Commissioner W. Hays Gilstrap

Director Duane L. Shroufe  
Deputy Director Steve K. Ferrell  
Asst. A.G. Jay Adkins  
Asst. A.G. Jim Odenkirk

Chairman Manning called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

1. Executive Session – Legal Counsel

- a. Legal Counsel. *Forest Guardians v. APHIS*, CIV 99-61-TUC-WDB; *State of Arizona v. Norton*, CIV 98-0632-PHX-ROS; *Conservation Force v. Shroufe*, CIV 98-0239 PHX-RCB; *In Re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River* and *Mark Boge v. Arizona Game and Fish Commission & Shroufe*, CIV 2000-020754
- b. Briefing. Arizona Auditor General's Office audits
- c. Legal Advice. Commission's legal status involving state and federal livestock grazing leases
- d. Real Property and Water Rights Acquisitions. Review of progress towards negotiations on properties the Department is evaluating for possible acquisition

**Motion:** Carter moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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Meeting recessed 12:32 p.m.

Meeting reconvened 1:38 p.m.

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Chairman Manning called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. Members of the Commission and Director's staff were introduced. The meeting followed an agenda dated March 30, 2001.

2. Hearings on License Revocations for Violation of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife

**Presenter:** Leonard Ordway, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Record of these proceedings is maintained in a separate minutes book in the Director's Office.

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3. Call to the Public

Dave Lukens, representing the Western Game Bird Alliance, distributed materials to the Commission regarding quail for tomorrow's meeting.

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4. An Update on Current Issues, Planning Efforts and Proposed Projects on Federal Lands in Arizona

**Presenter:** John Kennedy, Habitat Branch Chief

A copy of the printed update, which was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting, is included as part of these minutes.

More information was provided regarding progress on Arizona's national monuments and refuges in terms of the Department's mission. Mr. Kennedy stated a package was put together for the Governor's Office regarding national monuments. Packages and monument-specific comments were sent to the congressional delegation, particularly Congressman Stump's office. Department comments were also included in a package sent from the Governor's Office to the Interior Secretary's Office.

Direction from the Interior Secretary has been given to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the need to work directly with the states on the draft policies regarding national wildlife refuges.

Regarding future access into Charouleau Gap as referenced by the Commission, Mr. Kennedy stated he anticipated a meeting would be held in the near future to discuss the issue and would provide the Commission with an update immediately following the meeting.

Commissioner Carter stressed that the issue of public access on public lands remains a top priority in meetings with the Forest Service and others in southeastern Arizona. When appropriate, county governments should be involved as well.

The draft management plan for the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge should be available for preliminary review by the Department and Commission by the end of June. It would not be available until the policies become final, which may not occur for several more months.

Commissioner Golightly asked what the forests were doing regarding OHV uses and when the plan would be available. Mr. Kennedy stated the update contained a lot of

information about concerns with OHV use in forests. The forests have recognized that the forests in Arizona have inconsistent policies and regulations that pertain to OHV's. An aggressive effort will be undertaken by the Forest Service to maintain consistency with management of OHV use across all Arizona forests. One of the Forest Service's concerns deals with the retrieval of downed big game. There has been confusion on the forests' part with regard to the Commission rule pertaining to off-road uses for the retrieval of downed big game on State Trust lands, as opposed to the forests. This concern has been clarified and resolved with the forests. The Department is seeking direct involvement with the forests on the OHV planning team. The Coronado is not directly participating on the team because it already has policies that the other forests want to try or be consistent with. There are advantages and disadvantages with this approach and Mr. Kennedy will keep the Commission informed.

The removal of the Juniper Mesa Tank from Wilderness and the construction of a replacement tank outside of the Wilderness were noted. Mr. Kennedy stated that normally the Department would move in the opposite direction. It was BLM's position that this water in Wilderness did not fit guidelines or was not compatible with Wilderness management. This particular tank was built in 1968, and when the area was designated as Wilderness in 1984, the Department agreed to remove this water not for specific Wilderness concerns, but because it did not serve the purpose for which it was put there. The Department is working with BLM to build a new water source outside of the Wilderness. BLM will fund the tank removal and NEPA work.

A meeting was held regarding the Heber-Reno sheep driveway and associated allotments in the Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves (A-S) National Forests. The Department was not invited to the meeting. It was identified as a high priority by the A-S and not a high priority by the Tonto. There was confusion about how to treat the NEPA analysis. It was going to be separate from the NEPA associated with the allotments. Mr. Kennedy would find out more information on the issue and pass it on to the Commission as soon as possible.

Per the Commission's request, Richard Remington, Region I (Pinetop) Supervisor, gave an update regarding the Grasslands Wildlife Area. The Department met with the State Land Department (SLD) and reviewed the applications for the assumptions of a grazing lease by the Commission. The sub-lease agreement forms were reviewed for the sub-lessee who will actually graze the 6000 acres designated as grazing. The special management application was also reviewed and the Department was ready to meet with the potential sub-lessees to complete signing of the forms. The process would then begin for appraisal of a special land use permit and for the rights-of-way. Also, in meeting with SLD, the Department received their comments and review of the Commission's grazing plan. There were no significant amendments made to the plan. The SLD was not requiring the submission of the grazing plan simultaneously with the lease and the sub-lease applications.

### **Public comment**

Marie Pyeatt, U.S. Forest Service permittee owner and representing the Pyeatt Ranch, thanked the Commission and Department for providing her copies of the Department's comments to the Forest Service on the Environmental Assessment (EA) on the allotment. There were concerns regarding the letter in that the Department agreed with some of the

Forest Service's data. She did not agree with the Forest Service stating some areas were unsatisfactory. She was concerned that the Department's definition of a riparian area was not the same as the Forest Service's definition. The Department did not participate in the site survey; accurate recommendations could not be made on the allotment if the Department had never been there.

Ranchers would like to be informed prior to the Department's final letter to the Forest Service. The ranchers wanted an opportunity to comment during the site survey to try to make things better. Chairman Manning noted that when the Department's comments are discussed in-house, the material is considered confidential/deliberative and cannot be sent to the public or the permittee prior to the issuance of the final draft. Commissioner Chilton stressed the importance of the landowner or permittee being consulted to get information beforehand so that the agency's final comments contain no errors when it is sent to another agency. Comments should be reviewed with the permittee prior to the writing of a final comment letter. Information needed to be checked and validated.

Dave Lukens, representing the Western Game Bird Alliance (WGBA), stated access was not a problem on the Pyeatt Ranch. The WGBA also submitted input on the EA for these allotments. According to the WGBA, the Habitat Branch and Forest Service did a good job on the EA.

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#### 5. Statewide Shooting Range Project Update

**Presenter:** Kerry Baldwin, Education Branch Chief

Written updates were provided on various topics in the program prior to today's meeting.

Bellemont continues to move forward, even with a slight delay that was due to the value and appraisals on the non-federal parcels of land that will be in the long-term land exchange at Bellemont. The Department had not heard that the Forest Service had signed the EA Decision Notice. The Department does not receive prior notice on the decision until such time the official document goes out to the public.

Commissioner Golightly asked about the negotiations for two special use permits at Bellemont. Mr. Baldwin stated he was working with the Forest Service in terms of the elements of the special use permit because it is a shooting range. The new Forest Service policy requires some additional elements to a special use permit that are unique to shooting ranges. Much of the documentation was developed as part of the EA process. The reason why the Department was looking at two special use permits was if the Department went beyond the 180 acres of the initial footprint, it puts the Department into a different special use funding requirement. Two permits allow us to pay less under the special use permit to the Forest Service. This was the Forest Service's recommendation to the Department. This was still a viable piece of negotiation with the Forest Service.

Regarding the Usery Pass Shooting Range land exchange, the Department was waiting for Maricopa County Parks and Recreation to get a legal description of the land to be transferred to attach to the agreement that was approved at the Yuma Commission meeting. The County Board of Supervisors and Parks Board approved the documents and

are awaiting Scalzo's signature. The document would then be taken to the Bureau of Land Management for the official transfer.

Department personnel toured wildcat shooting ranges in the east Valley with the Forest Service. There was strong concern expressed by the Tonto National Forest Supervisor about significant wildcat shooting problems associated with the urban areas in Phoenix. The Department agreed there were significant safety, environmental contamination and littering problems that needed to be addressed in some way. One of the options being considered was there would be a perimeter area on the Forest adjacent to suburban areas that would be closed to all shooting under Forest Service policy. The Department was concerned and did not believe this was a last resort and there were other available options in identifying some unmanned shooting areas designated on the Forest that the Department could control and construct safety barriers. The Department has offered to collect data on wildcat shooters. The Department was also considering sending hunter safety education instructors out to these areas on the weekend to give positive public relations training to these shooters.

The Phoenix Trap and Skeet facility is closing and this has left a major gap in the trap competitive events cycle. The Amateur Trap Association has been working with the vendor at the clay target facility at Ben Avery to look at the possibility of helping him expand the clay target center to accommodate a mid-winter shoot that would have 1000-1500 shooters for a seven day period. This may mean looking at areas for future growth. Proposals would be brought to the Commission soon.

The Department has applied for a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) RP&P request on the west boundary of Ben Avery. This would add 150-600 yards of new land along our property boundary.

Pima County plans to get busy soon on the shooting range. Commissioner Carter requested that the Pima County shooting range be added to the list of specific ranges we track even though it was not on Department property.

### **Public comment**

Corina Cost, representing the Arizona Junior Match League, read her letter into the record. The Commission was asked to continue the current fee structure at Ben Avery and to maintain its policy of no charge for juniors and 50% of the daily fee for adults participating in sanctioned competitive events.

Phil Collins, also representing the Arizona Junior Match League and Ben Avery Junior Shooters, was concerned with the proposed rate structure changes and with the realignment of users. Commercial use may come in and take over junior shooting.

Terry Allison, representing the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association, stated the situation at Ben Avery Shooting Facility has come to his attention. The fee structure has been a focal point for groups that use the range on a regular basis. Department policy should be changed to allow line safety officers to have personal pistols at Ben Avery. Mr. Allison stated that Director Shroufe had stated the Department was looking further into this issue. Wildcat shooting is expanding and organized ranges have to be available.

The staff at Ben Avery was not growing and was over worked. The Commission should give some thought to this situation. Wildcat shooting will not stop without legislation

Commissioner Chilton stated the Commission filled out the Department's Needs Prioritization Form. She had not seen what everyone's needs assessment was but had heard the needs of the shooting ranges and shooting public was a high priority. She asked why there were no lights at the shooting ranges. She asked why juniors were being charged more money as this did not seem to match the prioritization that was done. She wanted to look at that again.

Mr. Allison stated he put in a range request for lighting. The requirement is that a group requesting lighting on a given range is then charged with the responsibility of bringing back engineered drawings that can be submitted to the Department for approval by its engineers. The plan is redrawn until it is acceptable. The group making the request is then charged with coming up with funding for the lights. Many groups desiring lights, e.g., youths, do not have the wherewithal to start the project. He believed that eventually there would have to be night shooting that requires more staff and more time. If people are to be kept from going into the desert to shoot, there has to be a range for them to go to.

Mr. Baldwin stated only three areas in the fee structure were significantly different than the original proposal in the 10-year plan draft. One of the primary areas was in competitive shooting. The Commission directed the Department to bring competitive shooting up to equal the main range users and that was done. The junior fee status was never changed. The only fee structure changes made were ones where the Department was already charging user groups. The training and education fee was dropped \$1 to make it consistent with the daily fee shooter if it was for a non-profit organization, a police organization or agency. If it was a commercial user, i.e., CCW classes where it was a for-profit opportunity, the Department increased the fee. The camping fees were raised to be consistent with upgrades to camping facilities and with fees being charged in the immediate area.

Regarding lighting, Mr. Baldwin stated one of the areas at the facility was open on Thursday evenings. A commissioned officer was required to be on property whenever there was public shooting at the range. If there are to be additional evening shoots, the structure will change. The Department will bring back proposals to the Commission for increased staffing based on the increase with the fee structure.

Currently there were more than 185 user groups at Ben Avery. All of the user groups have projects that they would like for their groups. The process now is that when a project is proposed, it is presented to the other clubs to see if there is any concern. If a particular club wants us to give a project priority, the Department was willing to put it into its priority process but it may take several years in terms of funding to get it done. When a project is proposed, plans have to be approved by the Department of Administration because of the construction procurement process. The club can assume responsibilities of building a particular lighting system. This is the problem with the juniors—they don't have that ability and there is not enough power to put in major lighting. It is a matter of demand vs. allocation of resources available to the Department.

Regarding subsidizing the facility, the Department subsidizes about 50%. Regarding the hunter education programs, Mr. Baldwin stated the hunter education building was just about finished and should be available soon. There was a rough design of a new hunter education range. Junior shooters want to use the same range that is currently being used for the hunter education classes. There was a scheduling issue. The Department was trying to get a separate range for hunter education class students. A lot of plans are now in the economic development long-term vision arena. Short-term solutions are being investigated for hunter education. Most instructors are encouraged to hold classes off-site.

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Meeting recessed 3:35 p.m.

Meeting reconvened 3:45 p.m.

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#### 6. Request for Approval to Expend Unallocated Fiscal Year 2001 Shooting Range Grant Funds

**Presenter:** Kerry Baldwin, Education Branch Chief

As part of the continuing shooting range development process for the Bellemont Range, the Department will need to contract for current appraisals of two existing Commission-owned properties. These appraisals are critical to developing the final exchange proposal for the Forest Service. (For additional information, see Commission meeting minutes for March 23, 2001, page 10.)

The cost of the appraisals has been determined to be \$12,500, and the Commission was being asked to approve the expenditure of FY 2001 State Shooting Range Grant monies for this contract.

In July 2000, the Commission approved a total of \$17,100 for FY 2001 Grants. This left an unallocated balance of \$29,900 in the Grant Fund. With Commission approval to utilize the \$12,500 for the land exchange appraisals, \$17,400 will be retained in the Fund to support other shooting range issues.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE \$12,500 EXPENDITURE FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 SHOOTING RANGE GRANT FUNDS.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Carter requested that the Department prepare a summary showing how much has been spent on contracting to have assessments done as well as what the anticipated future costs would be for Bellemont. Director Shroufe stated the Department could do the summary for monies spent but it would be difficult to project for the future.

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#### 7. State and Federal Legislation

**Presenter:** Richard Stephenson, Legislative Liaison

Senator Nichols passed away yesterday evening.

Mr. Stephenson stated S 1250 (shooting ranges) was awaiting the Governor's signature.

Watercraft violations started out as HB 2225; it was stopped and amended on to HB 2230, which failed in the Senate and the language was amended on to S 1248. S 1248 (watercraft accidents), with HB 2230 language was sent to the Governor for signature.

HB 2524 (municipal development fees, notice) dealt with the issue of cities and counties and Section 10 consultation (Endangered Species Act). It started as a floor amendment on 2362, which was stopped and was started as a striker on HB 2524. The attempt continues to find acceptable language to all parties involved.

It was expected the session would end in two weeks or less.

S 1247 (watercraft registration renewal) has been signed by the Governor. S 1248 (watercraft accidents) with HB 2530 (watercraft violation) was sent to the Governor for signature. S 1524 (hunting contests) and S 1575 (watercraft operator license) were dead.

Director Shroufe gave an update on CARA. In the House, 235 co-sponsors were needed; currently there were 150 co-sponsors. This effort is expected to move rapidly in the House. The Senate will be the area that will need more work. The President proposed full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in his budget. The LWCF was being attacked from several different interests. If new policies are enacted, the LWCF monies would go directly to governors. The states' governors will decide where the money will go. Normally, LWCF monies go to the State Parks Board for recreation and park development.

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#### 8. Consent Agenda

- a. Amendment of 5-Year Federal Aid Project Narrative for Cooperative Interstate Management – Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council Support (F21) to Include Linkage to the Wildlife 2006 Strategic Plan. Department recommendation: That the Commission vote to amend the Federal Aid Project Narrative governing the Department's direct support for the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council for cooperative instate management of fisheries resources to include references to the Sportfish Program goals, objectives and strategies from *Wildlife 2006*.
- b. Amendment of 5-Year Federal Aid Project Narrative for Certification of Drugs and Chemicals Used in the Hatchery Rearing of Fishes for Human Consumption (F23) to Include Linkage to the Wildlife 2006 Strategic Plan. Department recommendation: That the Commission vote to amend the Federal Aid Project Narrative governing the Certification of drugs and chemicals used in the hatchery rearing of fishes for human Consumption to include references to the Sportfish Program goals, objectives, and strategies from *Wildlife 2006*.



- c. Amendment of 5-Year Federal Aid Project Narrative for State Fish Hatchery Operation and Maintenance (F22) to Include Linkage to the Wildlife 2006 Strategic Plan. Department recommendation: That the Commission vote to amend the Federal Aid Project Narrative governing the Department's state fish hatchery operations and maintenance to include references to the Sportfish Program goals, objectives and strategies from *Wildlife 2006*.
- d. Amendment of 5-Year Federal Aid Project Narrative for Statewide Fisheries Management (F7) to Include Linkage to the Wildlife 2006 Strategic Plan. Department recommendation: That the Commission vote to amend the Federal Aid Project Narrative governing the Department's statewide fisheries management to include references to the Sportfish Program goals, objectives and strategies from *Wildlife 2006*.
- e. Request for the Commission to Approve a Lease Agreement (for Right-of-Way) with Arizona Public Service Company for the Purposes of an Easement to Construct, Operate, and Maintain Electric Poles, Lines and Services at Page Springs Hatchery, Yavapai County, Arizona. Department recommendation: That the Commission vote to approve a lease agreement (for right-of-way) for the purposes of an easement to construct, operate and maintain electric poles, lines and services with Arizona Public Service Company at Page Springs Hatchery, Yavapai County, Arizona, and execute the lease agreement as attached or as recommended or approved by the Office of the Attorney General. In accordance with Title §17-241.B., the lease agreement is subject to the approval of the Governor and State Land Commissioner.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A THROUGH E.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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#### 9. Commissioner Representation at Organizational Banquets

This item was deferred to later in the afternoon.

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#### 10. Yost Road Closure Petition

**Presenter:** Fred Bloom, Development Branch Chief

On March 1, 2001, the Department received a petition from Robert Yost requesting closure of three roads to vehicular access for the purpose of preventing further damage to wildlife habitat. Road 1 is .2 miles in length and was created within the last five years. Its purpose is unclear. Over the last year, the amount of off-road OHV activity associated with this road has led to an increase in soil erosion and grassland destruction. Road 2 is .25 miles in length and appears to exist solely as a route for individuals from the adjacent Coyote Creek housing development (in New Mexico) to dump trash. This road has also led to an increase in soil erosion and vegetation destruction. Road 3 is 2.25 miles in length and is associated with a recent pinyon-juniper push that was designed to increase forage production for both wildlife and livestock. The road was illegally created by

woodcutters and severely diminishes the habitat effectiveness of the vegetative treatment for deer, elk and antelope.

On March 29, 2001, the Development Branch, regional personnel and Commissioner Manning met with the manager of the Bar Flying V Ranch. The purpose was to inspect roads identified in the petition to confirm habitat impacts and assess any loss to access if closed. It was determined that closure of these roads would result in minimal loss of access and that the closures were warranted with respect to reducing habitat destruction. The Department received concurrence from the State Land Department and Apache County regarding closure.

These roads are located on State Trust lands approximately eight miles east of the Town of Springerville and south of State Route 60.

These road closures are for a maximum of five years. Mr. Bloom noted the Department had inventoried and was evaluating the current status of closures that were about to expire. These would be brought to the Commission in the future for action.

Mr. Bloom noted it was the intent of the Department to work with counties with respect to wildcat dumping.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE CLOSURE OF ALL THREE ROADS TO VEHICULAR ACCESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING FURTHER DAMAGE TO WILDLIFE HABITAT.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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#### 11. Hunt/Draw Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants

**Presenter:** Richard Rico, Assistant Director, Special Services Division

Information was provided regarding the Department's current procedures for notifying individuals who have been unsuccessful in either the fall or spring draw.

The Department's Internet service provider has indicated a desire to provide draw results on the Internet via the Department's website. Presently, several other states provide the same or similar types of service via the Internet. Preliminary cost estimates indicate this service could be provided for an annual fee of \$2700. This would allow the Department to post hunt result information via the Internet and the Department's Integrated Voice Response (IVR) system on the same date. Given the technological capabilities of both of these systems, a significant volume of calls/hits could be simultaneously handled, allowing the hunting public to determine whether or not they had been successfully drawn and the number of accrued bonus points in a very short time frame. Also, while customers would also be encouraged to print this information for their records, the draw results would remain available until the next draw was completed.

Given the benefits of providing this service on the Internet, the Department would prefer to discontinue the practice of mailing post cards. An excess of \$34,000 would be saved and would provide a significant process improvement for our customers.

The hunting public would still be provided with three varied options to determine whether or not they were successfully or unsuccessfully drawn. The two free services would include the Department's IVR system and the Internet-based service. The phone service provided by Link-to-Gov would continue to be a fee-based service.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE HUNT/DRAW NOTIFICATION PROCESS WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THE DIRECTOR UNDERSTANDS THAT WE HAVE SOME ANALYSIS OF WHAT THE DELAYS ARE IN TRYING TO ACCESS THE FREE SYSTEM TO SEE IF IT NEEDS TO BE ENHANCED.

Regarding notification to the public of this new process, Mr. Rico stated information would be included in the block in the hunt regulations booklet under, "How do You Find Out You were Drawn." Regional offices will have notices to post and the notices will be available to people as they drop off applications. The information will be on the IVR phone response line itself. It will also be promoted through the "Wildlife News" bulletin. It was too late this year to print the notification on the hunt application envelope itself; the Department could produce a stand-alone flyer that would be available to license dealers, etc.

Commissioner Gilstrap noted that most hunters belong to an organized group. The groups could be sent out a quasi-camera ready flyer to include in their publications.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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## 12. Call to the Public

There were no comments.

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## 9. Commissioner Representation at Organizational Banquets

**Presenter:** Duane L. Shroufe, Director

(For additional background, see Commission minutes for March 23, 2001, page 19.)

Chairman Manning stated with the new decision from the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office concerning reimbursements at banquets, it will be difficult and expensive for the resident Phoenix commissioner to attend these events and get any reimbursement.

Commissioner Golightly stated he would attend the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet in Flagstaff on August 11. Commissioner Gilstrap stated he would attend the Arizona Mule Deer Association (AMDA) event in Phoenix on June 23. Chairman Manning stated each commissioner should try to be at the AMDA function and the Governor's Symposium on Elk and Elk Management on June 23. It was felt that the Commission did not need to be present for the sheep drawing at the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society banquet on September 29. Because of a conflict with the Safford

Commission meeting, the Commission was unable to send a representative to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet on May 12.

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### 13. Director's and Chairman's Reports

Chairman Manning toured the Yost Ranch. He participated in media training yesterday.

Director Shroufe noted written updates from the Divisions were provided to the Commission.

Director Shroufe gave a status report regarding Department personnel positions becoming uncovered in the future. Uncovered status allows for greater flexibility in giving raises. A State Personnel rule only allows an employee to work 80 hours in a pay period. If covered employees work more than 80 hours, they have to be compensated for time and a half overtime. This takes a toll on the Department's budget and hampers the ability of mid level on up managers to work to get the job done. With the exception of four positions, Management Team wanted to take the opportunity to become uncovered.

Director Shroufe noted there could be critical cuts in Heritage-funded positions this coming year. Currently, the Heritage Fund is 50% of what it had been. This will mean forced moves; permanent FTEs will have jobs in the Department. Employees will be informed by the end of next week.

Director Shroufe attended a Lake Havasu Fisheries Project Executive Committee meeting. He was invited by Michigan State University to attend a conference to look into the ability for universities to start putting on mid-level natural resource manager classes. He spent time at the Legislature and attended a meeting with Scottsdale Mayor Manross. Scottsdale City Council voted last Monday to table the shooting ordinance. He attended an AORCC meeting and a Wildlife for Tomorrow meeting.

Director Shroufe met with the new Associate State Director for the Bureau of Land Management (Carl Rountree). Since much of the BLM staff has left or will be leaving, a lot of responsibilities will fall on Mr. Rountree's shoulders. Mr. Rountree offered to Game and Fish the ability to have one of the Department's employees in the BLM State office to deal with and coordinate with them on day-to-day issues related to monuments.

Director Shroufe attended the annual meeting of the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council. The big item of discussion was the recovery plan for the big river fishes.

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### 14. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Chilton met with the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance regarding responses to two documents: 1) Buenos Aires National Wildlife Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment and 2) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge Management Policies. She worked with the Southern Arizona Cattle Growers on several issues.

Commissioner Carter attended legislative hearings and spoke in support of S 1250. He worked on HB 2524 related to wildlife management issues.

Commissioner Golightly continued to work on shooting range issues in northern Arizona. He attended a meeting of the Coconino Sportsmen.

Commissioner Gilstrap evaluated elk situations in Pinetop and Taylor and attended a planning meeting on the development of the Governor's Symposium on Elk Management. He spent time at the Legislature. He attended the Arizona Eastern Counties Organization meeting and they committed \$15,000 towards the Symposium.

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#### 14. Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Carter moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE MINUTES FOR MARCH 23-24, 2001 BE APPROVED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

The minutes for February 23-24, 2001 were signed.

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**Motion:** Carter moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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Meeting recessed 4:56 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 5:40 p.m.

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Saturday, April 21, 2001 – 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Manning called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Members of the Commission and Director's staff were introduced. The meeting followed an agenda dated March 30, 2001.

#### Service Pin Awards

The following Department employees received service pins for 20 years of service: Richard Dryer (Region I); Rick Miller and Scott Reger (Region II) and Russ Richins (Region V).

The following Department employees received service pins for 25 years of service: Bob Barsch (Region II); Will Hayes and Ron Olding (Region V) and Larry Herrera (Support Services Branch).

Ray Kohls (Region VI) received a service pin for 35 years of service.

A presentation was made to Winford Hooe (Region I) as being the recipient of the 1999 Shikar Safari Wildlife Manager Award. Sherwin Scott from Safari Club International presented Officer Hooe with a plaque.

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1. Hearing on Proposed Commission Orders 2-5 and 7-10 for 2001-2002 Hunting Season

**Presenter:** Tice Supplee, Game Branch Chief

Introductions were made of the Regional Game Specialists who were present at today's meeting: Bob Henry, IV; John Goodwin, II; Art Fuller, III; Jim Heffelfinger, V; John Hanna, VI and Dave Cagle, I. Brian Wakeling, Big Game Supervisor; Ron Engel-Wilson, Small Game Supervisor; Amber Munig, Statistician, and Scott Zalaznick, Wildlife Specialist, were also introduced.

Introductory comments on the hunt recommendation formulation process were made. A short presentation was given on an opinion survey that was conducted in conjunction with certification of *Wildlife 2006*. This was data that was behind the game management component of that document.

Information was provided regarding the Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule. The deadline date this year will be June 12 for the fall hunts and October 16 for the spring hunts. Mailout of hunt-permits tags for the fall hunts is expected to occur by July 27; any refunds or warrants would be mailed out by August 10.

The significant change in the schedule was for elk. The Department recommended adding a first-come/first-serve by mail or over the counter elk permit-tags this year for September 14, which was the beginning of the majority of the archery elk seasons. Elk will have available permits by mail only on or after August 13. Information will be modified to delete elk from the list of species that will not have tags because the Department believed that there would be elk tags available, primarily in limited opportunity hunt zones, if the Commission certified this package.

It will be explained to hunters that when they apply in the drawing, any choices for elk will be considered in the permit draw system in the first and second draw. If an individual selects a hunt in the first time application and gets drawn, he will use up his bonus points (except for hunter education), even if it was a third through fifth choice box. Should a person be unsuccessful in the draw and applies for a leftover first-come/first-serve elk tag, the person would not use up any bonus points. The bonus points that were earned from the first draw were the person's, plus any others that had been accumulated.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Chilton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION CERTIFY THE HUNT PERMIT-TAG APPLICATION SCHEDULE

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commission Order 2: Deer

A total of 47,190 deer permits were recommended for 2001, a reduction of 805 from last year and the lowest number of deer permits recommended since the draw system began.

The general deer seasons had a recommendation of 44,695 permits, which is a decrease of 1155 from last year. Most reductions are for the deer units in southeastern, central and northeastern Arizona. Permit increases were recommended in parts of northwestern Arizona, where climatic conditions have been more favorable to deer fawn survival and buck:doe ratios are responding to conservative harvest strategies.

The juniors-only deer seasons were recommended with 1605 permits distributed throughout the state, an increase of 375 from last year because of Unit 12A-W antlerless hunt permits. Muzzleloader permits were recommended at 879, which is a reduction of 25 from last year. A juniors-only muzzleloader season was again recommended for Unit 16A with 20 permits. The junior hunts in Units 10 and 12A-W were recommended for the dates October 19-22. These new dates avoid overlap with other big game hunts in Unit 10 and allow harvest of antlerless deer on the Kaibab at a time when the fawns are older. The dates also remove these junior hunts from overlap with junior elk hunt dates in other units.

Stratification of seasons in Units 37A and 37B was no longer necessary because of reduced permits. The December hunt for whitetail was not recommended for Unit 30B because of low buck:doe ratios and poor fawn crops. Unit 20C was recommended for stratification because of permit increases. Permit reductions in Units 12B, 13B and 45 were directed at meeting alternative management objectives developed in the Alternative Mule Deer Management Plan.

A significant contribution to the deer permit offerings was the third year of antlerless hunting with increases to 1000 general season and 1000 juniors-only season antlerless permits proposed for Unit 12A-W (the Kaibab). Unit 12A-W fawn crops have been lower the past two years (66% in 1999 and 57% in 2000). These decreases in fawn production are from a combination of drier years and poor condition of the deer herd. The recommended permit numbers will more significantly reduce the overall deer population in Unit 12A-W. In light of severe browse loss in certain areas on the winter range, the Department considered this action prudent.

A later season hunt was recommended with 50 permits for Unit 12A-E and the same later dates were again recommended for Unit 12A-W. This is to manage for limited harvest of older age class bucks and offer a season when the animals are more susceptible to the hunter. A rotating muzzleloader hunt was offered in units north of the Colorado River (Arizona Strip and Kaibab). The rotation for 2001 was to leave Unit 12B and rotate to Unit 12A-E with 50 permits and the same dates in early November. Archery hunts in Units 12A, 12B, and 13A were recommended for the same three-week season of September 18-October 7, which overlaps the archery elk season dates and Unit 13B remained closed to archery deer.

A significant new addition was the first CHAMP season being offered on Fort Huachuca. The Fort has additional requirements for people to participate, specifically a hunter education certification. All CHAMP hunters who have hunter education are eligible. The Fort will provide personnel and/or volunteers to assist these hunters in the field.

The juniors-only season deer hunts rotated out of Units 6B and 20B and rotated into Unit 24B. Juniors-only deer hunt opportunities for Region II were recommended to be the antlerless hunt in Unit 12A-W.

The muzzleloader season in Region VI rotated from Unit 24B to 24A.

Commissioner Gilstrap read a letter he received from the Arizona Mule Deer Association (AMDA) into the record. The letter was written as a result of a meeting between AMDA and Tice Supplee and Brian Wakeling. The AMDA agreed that the biological evidence concerning the cliff rose or the lack thereof in the winter range for the Kaibab deer herd indicated a definite problem. The AMDA also agreed that the decrease in the average weight of harvested buck deer reinforced these findings. It was felt that because there were too many deer in an area that had insufficient food, the harvest of excess animals should be doe deer. The AMDA did not advocate the harvest of does as a regular practice or course of events. Even though it may be used as a management tool, it should not be abused or used improperly. The AMDA desired to seek other avenues to protect critical winter range whether it be through translocation or the planting of cliff rose seedlings with protective cages to attempt to reinstate this food source. One of the top priorities of the AMDA this year will be a concentration of effort to work on use of alternative methods, in addition to a minimal harvest requirement.

### **Public comment**

Al Kreutz, representing self, stated his remarks related to Unit 12A only. The Department ignored three points that were previously passed by the Commission.

- 1) Conservation permit. There has been discrimination since the late 1950s. The rifle hunters are charged for it but not the archery hunters. Different excuses for why this has not been done were very poor and valuable statistics on the Kaibab were lost because of it.
- 2) Only ten percent of the deer permits north of the Kaibab should be offered to nonresident hunters. The Department enforces this rule on rifle hunters but not archers.
- 3) Trophy buck mule deer were in Unit 12A. It takes a long time to grow trophy-sized bucks, but again, archery hunts are unlimited in the area. If the archers were opposed to a drawing for Unit 12 and 13, perhaps over-the-counter tags for the area should be eliminated. In the Unit 12A trophy area, he suggested that a definite number of archers equal the number of rifle hunters; or in 12A-E, the number of resident and nonresident hunters could be limited to use of primitive weapons, e.g., longbows and recurves with no trigger devices and no telescopic sights.

Mr. Kreutz asked that the Commission direct the Department to immediately draft rules regarding these points.

Ms. Supplee explained the 10% rule for nonresidents north of the River. Archery is not in the permit draw; therefore, it was not subject to the 10% rule. The archers are also not charged the Kaibab fee. A new agreement has been made with the U.S. Forest Service. The decision of the Commission was to wait until the rule's article that governs fees opened. At that time, the thought may be entertained to develop a stamp or some other methodology so archers would also pay the fee. The Department has been watching the archery hunt on the Kaibab. A few years ago, the season was shortened and moved to the



same dates as for archery elk. It has not affected hunter participation, which is still high for Kaibab archery deer hunters. Biologically, the Department felt the harvest (300+ in 1998 and in 1999) was sustainable and manageable. The issue seemed to be social in relation to this topic. Archery success rate on the Kaibab ran between 5-13%.

If the archers became permitted on the North Kaibab, Ms. Supplee stated that the permits would fall under the 10% rule for nonresidents. Also, people would have to choose between rifles or archery. It was true that nonresident hunters were taking advantage of the Kaibab hunt. If they were disallowed through the permitting, Ms. Supplee felt there would be a decline in the number of nonresident archery deer hunters on the Kaibab.

Blaine Bickford, representing self, stated junior hunts on the North Kaibab should be moved to the first weekend in October. The idea of junior hunts was to enhance the experience to make it fun and enjoyable. The further back the hunt was placed, the more likely the weather would have a severe impact. He suggested moving 500 of the 1000 late antlerless permits to the earlier junior hunt and reallocating 1500 permits for juniors.

Mr. Bickford stated data needed to be available in the future regarding the number of hunters 14 and under. The age requirement for a hunting license was 14; however, because there was no documentation, it is currently unknown how many of those individuals are coming into the activity.

Ms. Supplee noted there were biologically based reasons behind the Kaibab deer hunt recommendation. John Goodwin elaborated on those points. Two issues received focus: biological and social. The current offerings in October for the junior hunts were about as early as does could be biologically harvested without orphaning fawns that may not survive. Many of the junior hunters and their parents were concerned about this. By moving the date later in the season, the fawns would probably be old enough to take care of themselves. On the social side, 20% of the junior Kaibab hunters also had a junior elk tag for the same dates. By splitting these two hunts, the Department felt it was giving people the family experience twice, not just once. This would enable families to spend time in one spot, rather than racing from one location to another.

Don Martin, representing the Mohave Sportsman's Club, spoke regarding reducing muzzleloader deer permits in Units 15 and 6B. The deer were not there. Ms. Supplee noted Unit 6B had a 50 permit reduction from last year. Art Fuller provided information regarding Unit 15. This Unit was impacted by a lot of urbanization; this past year the hunt success was only 10% with 150 permits. The buck:doe ratio was good with good survival both in 1999 and 2000. The deer herd in the Cerbats and in the Peacocks was going down; there was a viable herd in the Musics. Part of the situation is weather and part of the situation is hunter tradition. He thought the resource existed in Unit 15.

Doris French, representing self, stated she was getting petitions signed to ask the Commission to set aside permits for people over 60 that have been in Arizona for at least 20 years. A special draw could be made for those people and then their names could be put back into the regular draw if successful in the special draw.

Mr. Bickford, representing self, stated if, on the biology issue, the recruitment of animals per unit is that fragile that less than 14 days of life will make a critical difference on

whether or not an animal lives, there was a major problem. This needed to be considered in the judgment of Unit 12A.

Gary Anderson, representing self, asked what percentage of the total harvest on the Kaibab was taken by archery. Mr. Goodwin stated archers generally have been harvesting 300 bucks the past few years out of a total of 1000 bucks that were harvested by all methods. Archery statistics were not separated between 12A-E and 12A-W. Ms. Supplee noted the questionnaire would have to be reconstructed to separate east and west.

Lonnie Shield, representing the Arizona Bowhunters Association (ABA), stated ABA had no problem with the Commission deciding the amount of tags for the area. He thought moving the juniors hunt up in the North Kaibab was a good idea.

Commissioner Golightly asked about drawing a boundary for the 12A-W antlerless seasons to protect does in the northern part of the Unit that also move into Unit 12B. Ms. Supplee stated the AMDA asked consideration to redescribing the west side antlerless boundary, at least for the general season, to exclude the northern portion of the west side winter range. This suggestion was not currently included in the recommendations. Mr. Goodwin stated this issue came up a few years ago and gave a briefing. A portion of the summer deer on the Kaibab Plateau goes north into 12B to winter and deer coming from Utah winter in the Buckskin Mountains as well. These two migrant herds cause heavy use in the winter. The Department recommended that the northern extension of the Kaibab Plateau still remain open for antlerless harvest because of concern about the use of the cliff rose in the winter range portion of Unit 12B. There was a threshold of 50% use in the alternative deer management plan. This February the use was 48%. It was advisable to maintain the opportunity to harvest a small number of does that would go into 12B to winter; it would be counterproductive to limit the harvest.

Commissioner Carter was sympathetic about moving the youth hunt on the Kaibab back to where it was. He did not think 10 days would make a significant difference in the survival of fawns. Ms. Supplee stated moving it would remove the overlap with general squirrel. Youths would lose that dual opportunity. Mr. Goodwin stated fawns usually drop early to mid July. As they mature, young fawns gain strength and independence quickly and a few weeks did make a difference. The Department could go early or later with the hunt.

**Motion:** Golightly moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMISSION ORDER 2, DEER, AS PRESENTED.

Commissioner Carter asked if consideration would be given to modify the dates on the one youth hunt. Commissioners Golightly and Gilstrap concurred with the modification to allow a vote to occur.

**Modified Motion:** Golightly moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ACCEPT COMMISSION ORDER 2, EXCEPT AS MODIFIED TO MOVE THE SEASON DATE FOR YOUTH ANTLERLESS HUNT IN UNIT 12B (HUNT NUMBER 1116).

Ms. Supplee noted the modification would amend the season dates for Hunt #1116 to October 5 through October 8, 2001.

**Vote:** Carter and Chilton – Aye  
Golightly and Gilstrap – Nay  
Chair voted Aye  
Motion passed 3 to 2

Commissioner Golightly was opposed to the amended motion but had agreed to allow the amendment to go forward for a vote. If the vote failed, the Commission would have been able to go back to the original motion to accept deer as presented. Commissioner Carter stated he did not offer an amended motion but had asked if Commissioners Golightly and Gilstrap would consider a modification.

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Meeting recessed 10:05 a.m.

Meeting reconvened 10:15a.m.

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Richard Rico, Assistant Director for Special Services, gave an update regarding changes in the hunt draw public notification process.

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### Commission Order 3: Pronghorn

A total of 1089 permits were recommended, which was a reduction of 35 from last year. The general season permits were recommended at 450 permits, which were reduced 9 from last year. The archery recommendation was 531 permits, which were reduced 20 from last year, and the muzzleloader season recommendation was for 93 permits, which were reduced 6 from last year. A total of 15 juniors-only permits were recommended. The juniors-only hunt in Unit 3B-N rotated into Unit 2C.

The very poor spring and summer resulted in below guideline fawn production for most pronghorn populations. Because of consecutive years of poor fawn production, the buck:doe ratios continue to widen in many units.

### **Public comment**

Warren Leek, representing the Arizona Antelope Foundation, supported the recommended reduction in the number of antelope permits in the Anderson Mesa area. Problems there needed to be addressed. He had a problem with the buck:doe ratio in Unit 30A. Stockpiling bucks would not do any good. He hoped the Commission and Department would not go too far in restricting nonresidents from hunting in Arizona. Ms. Supplee stated the recommendation from the wildlife manager was conservative. She read his comments. All the bucks in the survey were mature. No fawn production was noted during the survey and no yearling bucks were seen. The three year average fawn:doe ratio was 21:100; the guideline average was 30:100. Buck:doe ratio was 58:100. If there was another poor fawn year, a reduction in permits would probably occur.

Blaine Bickford, representing self, was concerned with Unit 2B. The category that screams for attention was fawns per doe and there was no fawn crop in this unit. The situation needed to be dramatically addressed. He could not support 35 buck muzzle-loader permits. Ms. Supplee stated the Department anticipated 20 bucks to be harvested with its recommendation, which was 10% of the total buck population. If the fawn crop continued to be low, the permits will be reduced next year.

Lonnie Shields, representing ABA, asked if Unit 7M would be considered for archery permits. Mr. Goodwin stated Unit 7M had a small population of antelope. It was decided not to have an antelope hunt in that area due to urbanization, even though options had been explored.

Don Martin, representing the Mohave Sportsman's Club, noted events that occurred with the antelope herd in Unit 10.

**Motion:** Gilstrap moved and Carter seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 3: PRONGHORN, AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commission Order 4: Elk

Total elk permits recommended were 29,395, a new record high and an increase of 4635 from last year's record high permit number. General season hunt areas were recommended for an increase of 820 permits, for a total of 16,020. An additional 1990 permits were recommended in "limited" general hunt areas for a total of 2140. Archery permits were recommended for an increase of 1304 permits for a total of 8297. An additional 25 archery permits were recommended for "limited" hunt areas for a total of 105 permits. This would include new "any elk" archery hunts in Units 28 and 31. Muzzleloader increased by 326 to 1413 permits. Muzzleloader permits were recommended for "limited" hunt area in Unit 3B-N. Juniors-only permits were increased by 170 to 1370. The majority of "standard season" permit increases were in Units 1, 6A and 27.

The concept of "limited" hunt areas designed to significantly reduce or keep elk numbers at low levels was approved by the Commission at its March 24, 2001 meeting. Units with "limited" season structures are 2B, 3B-N, 4B-N, 5A-N, 5B-N, 12A&B, 18A&B, 19B, 20A&C, 27S, 28 and 31. Almost all of the "limited" permits were for general rifle seasons. The Commission agreed with the Department recommendation to not include "limited" elk hunts in the permit allocation formula for archery, muzzleloader, and juniors-only seasons. Season dates and lengths are varied and tailored to site situations. Some experimentation is included in the hunt structures to determine what proves most effective.

Ms. Supplee noted changes in the elk hunt recommendations.

The hunt recommendation package was coordinated with the local Habitat Partnership Committees and the Forage Resource Study Group.

**Public comment**

William Hayden, representing self, noted the situation in Unit 10 was that there was a large number of elk with a high bull:cow ratio. The major landowner was working with the Department. He recommended that permits be increased for mature bulls.

James Bond, representing self, lived within Unit 4B and stated the elk in the area had decreased. If a man wants to grow crops in an elk area, he should put up a fence. The weather will be too hot during the two limited hunts in August. A lot of game meat will go to waste. It will be hard to keep the hunters in the drier northeast portion of the unit. The area should be changed as well as the dates for the hunt.

Don Martin, representing Arizona Wildlife Outfitters, addressed the stratified archery hunts in Unit 6A. Statistics needed to be revisited. He did not think the stratification process would work in a seven day hunt to take more elk. The Department did not want to overlap the antelope season, but he noted there were only three antelope permits for that area. The length of the stratified hunts could easily be changed to two ten day hunts (September 14-23 and September 24-October 3). He did not think the elk hunters would be in the same area as the three antelope hunters.

Kenneth Haefner, representing the Arizona Wildlife Federation, opposed the Department's proposal because he thought it was politically driven and not based on sound scientific wildlife management principles.

Dan Hunter, Volunteer State Director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, spoke regarding the limited elk hunts and thought they were in the best interests of the habitat, sportsmen and landowners in Arizona.

Blaine Bickford, representing self, spoke regarding Unit 2B. He congratulated Department staff on developing a strategy, which was obviously controversial. Reduction of elk in Unit 2B was in the best interests of all. There was no survey data on the unit. The 48% hunt success totaled only 12 elk, which was on the any elk hunt last year which preceded immediately the antlerless only. Accessibility into the unit was a problem. He asked that for future planning, when season dates are staggered, the Department needed to look at special opportunities in conjunction with landowners and animal access. There was a need to expand beyond traditional limits to reduce the resident core population of elk in some of the areas in Unit 2B. This issue had been discussed at the Springerville Habitat Partnership Committee meetings.

Gary Anderson, representing self, was concerned about the drop in elk populations in Unit 6A during the last five years. He did not know why the Department was pressured into dividing the unit into three sections. John Goodwin spoke regarding protocol for Department surveys. The surveys are standardized. Elk populations have been dropping. Commissioner Golightly suggested that Mr. Anderson meet with him and Brian Wakeling during a break in the meeting and get a copy of the Elk Harvest Management Strategy Report.

Jack Simon, representing self, thought things were getting worse for wildlife in Arizona. Pressure was coming from cattle growers and legislators who were themselves ranchers. Pressure and complaints always come from Region I but the most drastic cuts in the elk

herds always come in Region II. He believed there was not an over population of elk in Arizona. Instead of running away from problems, the Commission and Department need to use wildlife management science to solve these problems.

Rich Dunkirk, representing self, spoke regarding political decisions. It was unfair to chastise the Commission and Department for making political decisions. The Department has to juggle many balls in the air at one time. The hunters have to realize there will always be political, habitat and social issues in Arizona. Decisions cannot be made overnight when they pertain to game management. The Department and Commission do an admirable job.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 4: ELK, AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner Golightly offered an amendment to the motion TO INCREASE BULL PERMITS FROM 40 TO 80 IN UNIT 7M. He explained why. Unit 7M is very large and it contains a lot of bull elk that cause damage in the area. Safety was a concern. This was not a political move to address what he considered a shortage of sufficient hunt opportunity in Unit 7M. This should be a one hunt only and should not be stratified. Mr. Goodwin stated there would be no problem in raising permit numbers for Unit 7M.

Commissioners Carter and Gilstrap concurred with the amendment.

Commissioner Chilton asked Ms. Supplee's opinion of the ten-day stratified hunt that was mentioned by Mr. Martin. Ms. Supplee stated dates had been worked up to see what it would look like if extended. Mr. Goodwin stated that if it were moved earlier, there would be a trade off of reducing archery deer hunt opportunities. If it were moved later, it would overlap with pronghorn. There was not a biological need to harvest that many more elk. When the trade was made between general and archery permits, permits were increased at a substantial rate in order to provide the number of permits on a statewide basis.

**Vote on Motion as Amended:** Unanimous

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#### 4. Call to the Public

Al Kreutz, representing self, expressed appreciation to the Commission for making Silver Creek an artificial lure, catch and release area. He distributed a articles and a news clipping showing what was accomplished by Trout Unlimited, fly fishermen, and the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) at Silver Creek. He appreciated the monetary assistance of the AWF for the project.

Sandy Froman, Chairperson of Wildlife for Tomorrow (WFT), gave information regarding the WFT foundation. She mentioned the Outdoor Hall of Fame banquet would be August 24, 2001. She stated the foundation has great potential in helping the Department and is working to step up its level of assistance to the Department. Powell 2001 is the current fundraising project. The foundation has begun discussions with the Department to possibly assist in building a new wildlife education center at Ben Avery.

Blaine Bickford, representing self, stated he wanted to see better communication between the Department's Branches. More hunters would attend the Commission meetings if there was not a schedule conflict with hunter education workshops. He mentioned a more aggressive education program should be directed at non-hunting youths. He gave an example.

Don Martin, representing self, invited the Commission to hold a meeting in Kingman. He asked the Department and Commission to look at the accomplishments of the juniors only hunting program. He was not sure that under current rules and regulations the juniors program accomplished bringing juniors into the program. Juniors hunting needed to be revisited; new kids should be brought into the hunting program and the rule should be modified to allow that to occur.

Jack Simon, representing self, expressed a personal concern.

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Meeting recessed 12:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened 12:35 p.m.

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#### Commission Order 5: Turkey

The fall turkey season recommendation was for a total of 4635 permits, a decrease of 125 from last year. A total of 125 junior-season permits were recommended, for an increase of 25 permits in Unit 23. The decreases were mainly in Region II, where Unit 6A was recommended for a decrease of 100 permits and Units 7 and 9 were recommended for no fall turkey season.

Unit 7 was opened to the fall season for the first time two years ago. With decreasing observations of birds, this unit was again recommended for closure to the fall season. Turkey observations have been steadily declining in Unit 9 and the recommendation was to end the fall season in this unit until there was an increase in the population.

Increased permits were recommended in 4A, 8&10, 12A and 23.

Spring turkey season dates and permit numbers would be considered at the August Commission meeting.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 5: FALL TURKEY, AS PRESENTED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### Commission Order 6: Javelina

All javelina season dates and permit levels will be recommended at the August Commission meeting.

Commission Order 7: Bighorn Sheep

No changes were recommended for total bighorn sheep permits from last year, which will remain at 103. There were permit reductions in Units 12A/13A, 15B, 15C, and 44B; permit increases were in Units 39, 41E, 45A, 45B, and 45C (Kofa NWR).

Public opinion was mixed and overall not supportive of expanding the bighorn sheep season to 90 days in additional Units. The Department recommended that only Units 9/10 be expanded to a 90 day season. Unit 12B was split into East and West areas to better focus management on herd units. Unit 12B-W has been included with Units 12A and 13A, while 12B-E will remain a single hunt.

**Public comment**

Al Kreutz, representing self, referenced sheep surveys and lack of sheep near the Tucson area. He asked that the number of permits be doubled in the Black River hunt from one to two. There was good expansion of the herd in that area and saw no biological reason not to raise the number. There were a lot of Class 4 rams. David Cagle agreed that there was a viable herd (estimated 70 sheep) in the Black River area. One of the reasons to hold down the number of permits was that it was a highly mobile population and the Fort Apache Reservation was thinking of offering one or two permits next year. The Department shares information with the Apache and tries to be conservative in permits.

Pete Cimellaro, representing the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, supported the Department's proposal. He referenced several specific items. The 90-day season in Units 9 and 10 was a wise decision and was supported. There was interest in a sheep hunt in Unit 1; it was a difficult area to survey and the Society hoped to assist the Department in surveys. Unit 24B was of interest to the Society; the Superstition Range had potential for hundreds of sheep. The Society wanted to promote sheep in that unit. He made a personal comment regarding his work in Sonora, Mexico developing sheep programs. The group he worked with in Mexico was committed to seeing programs developed around a management format that included hunting. He saw what happens when "things are left alone and are left to Nature." A lot happens to decrease populations of animals and non-management is not a good thing for wildlife and he commended the Department and Commission on its decisions regarding elk.

Blaine Bickford, representing self, spoke with regard to the hunt in Aravaipa Canyon and splitting the location between the public hunter and the auction hunter. Ms. Supplee stated it was the piece of Unit 32 in the Galiuro Mountains that has a sub-population of sheep that could withstand some rotational hunt opportunities. The special tag hunter has the area this next year. The area, which is not the Aravaipa, would be unavailable to the permit draw; this would be reversed next year. Mr. Bickford stated he was not sure that biologically that herd can't stand, in any given year, a potential harvest of two animals. The auction hunter has availability of a vast resource and may choose to go elsewhere. This would limit the opportunity of a public harvest. The Unit 1 Black River herd travels east. He looked forward to the Society doing survey work in the area. If Mr. Kreutz was correct, the Department could take advantage of the resource.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Chilton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 7: BIGHORN SHEEP, AS PRESENTED.



**Vote:** Unanimous

Commission Order 8: Buffalo

The total of 66 permits for the fall 2001 included hunts for adult bull, yearling, and cow (Raymond Ranch Wildlife Area), and cow or yearlings (House Rock Wildlife Area). This is an increase of 18 permits over last year.

Spring buffalo season dates and permit levels will be considered at the August Commission meeting. The Department is planning to offer all of the adult bull permits on House Rock Wildlife Area in that season structure. Because of the increase in cow or yearling permits from 27 to 56, the opening dates on House Rock are staggered into five separate hunts of seven days each. The three later hunts offer a second five-day common dates season at the end of December to allow an unsuccessful hunter to return. The two hunts in September/October do not. The reasons for not offering the additional dates for the two additional hunts are: 1) the total number of possible hunters showing up for the December dates would be excessive; 2) alternative dates all overlap with other hunts and 3) moving the hunts into a "spring" season structure increases the chance of pressure on the wintering deer herd

The Raymond Ranch Wildlife Area hunts in Unit 5B are recommended for a split season. Hunters who are unsuccessful on the first season dates may reschedule between October 11-18, 2001. The reason for the season structure change was to avoid overlapping the buffalo hunt with the limited opportunity elk hunts scheduled for October 5-10 in Unit 5B-N.

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Meeting recessed 1:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened 1:20 p.m.

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**Public comment**

Don Martin, representing self, spoke regarding buffalo harvest data. He stated the bull buffalo hunt on House Rock was very difficult. Running back-to-back hunts was a set up for disaster. He suggested that there be a break between those hunts to try to prevent the buffalo going into the wilderness area and become inaccessible.

Ms. Supplee noted the Commission could separate the two early hunts and make one October 19-25 or the dates could be offered as a second date set for clean up on those two hunts as well, which would result in no overlap with the Junior deer season.

Specific hunts numbers and their revised dates were given: Hunt #7004 and Hunt #7005 have a second date for both, which would be October 19 through 25. This would allow the individuals to return if they were unsuccessful.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Chilton seconded THAT THE HUNTS 7004 AND 7005 TO HAVE CLEAN UP HUNTS WITH THE DATES OF OCTOBER 19 THROUGH OCTOBER 25 FOR BOTH HUNTS.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Carter moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 8: FALL BUFFALO, AS AMENDED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commission Order 9: Bear

The statewide sow harvest objective for the general season is 93, which is no change from last year. There were small adjustments to the harvest objectives in Units 1, 4B, 22, 23, and 24A. A new hunt was opened in Unit 19A, with a sow harvest objective of 2. The sow harvest objective in Unit 27 was shifted from the early season to the late season and the season dates were changed to correspond to the dates in Unit 1. New archery only bear seasons were recommended for Units 4B, 6B and 7M and 23-N. The sow harvest objective for the archery hunts totals 11, which is six more than last year. The general bear season in Unit 4B was recommended to close September 9 to assure the Region has a place to release nuisance bears.

**Motion:** Gilstrap moved and Carter seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 9: BEAR, AS PRESENTED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commission Order 10 Mountain Lion

The Department recommended adding southern portions of Units 16A and 18B to the multiple bag limit. These new units and a portion of Unit 22 have a bag limit of one mountain lion per day until the harvest objective has been reached. After the harvest objective has been reached, these hunt areas will remain open to a bag limit of one mountain lion per calendar year. Units 13A, 13B, 16B, 40B, 41, 43A, 43B, and 44B will close to the take of mountain lion when the harvest objective is reached in those units.

Discussion at public meetings was extensive concerning the expansion of the multiple lion bag limit to other management units. Overall, the hunting public was concerned about too great an expansion of the idea. They recommended that any multiple lion units should be opened because of wildlife objectives for other species. There was great concern that the harvest objectives, if expanded, would lead to reduced mountain lion hunting opportunity, not more.

The recommendation of opening southern portions of Units 16A and 18B to a multiple lion bag limit was to further reduce the mountain lion population in that area prior to and after a planned release of desert bighorn sheep near Bagdad. The sheep release is being planned for November 2001.

**Public comment**

D. J. Schubert, representing the Animal Defense League of Arizona, spoke regarding comments that were not in the December proposal. He specifically spoke regarding Units 16A, 18B and the southern portion of Unit 22. When he looked at the December and April proposals, there were substantive changes in what had been recommended for Units 16A and 18B. The changes include the establishment of a harvest objective and the establishment of the idea that once the harvest objective was met, the killing of mountain lions would continue. He believed harvest objectives were to be meaningful; when they

were reached, the area should be closed. Because of the substantive changes, he felt the Commission should not vote on the Order. Changes should be subject to further public review because they were substantively different from what was proposed. He felt changes should not be approved for these units. The Department has stated the purpose to continue to allow mountain lions to be killed after the harvest objective was reached, was to facilitate the transplanting of bighorn sheep in the future. Regarding Units 16A and 18B, he believed the changes should not be voted on today because he thought such a vote would be premature and would corrupt an ongoing legal process associated with the proposed bighorn sheep transplants. The BLM and the Department, based on documents he obtained, are engaged in a NEPA compliance effort for the transplants occurring in both of the units. It was clear that BLM did not intend to review mountain lion killings as part of the EIS. He thought this was wrong because 1) the reason the Department proposed these changes was to facilitate sheep transplants so the issues are interconnected and 2) evaluation of cumulative impacts of an action must occur. Cumulative impact is defined as any action, be it federal, non-federal or private that affects the issue in question. He believed the lion proposal had to go through the NEPA process. It was illegal to approve this proposal today and suggests the outcome of the NEPA process has been pre-determined. Ms. Supplee noted these were not Commission rules; therefore, they were not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act in the normal rulemaking process. The modifications to the bag limit were a direct product of the discussions at the public meetings that Mr. Schubert chose not to attend.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Chilton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 10: MOUNTAIN LION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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## 2. Hearing on Proposed Commission Orders 11-18 for 2001-2002 Hunting Season

**Presenter:** Tice Supplee, Game Branch Chief

### Commission Order 11: Tree Squirrel

No changes were recommended from last year.

### Commission Order 12: Cottontail Rabbit

No changes were recommend from last year.

### Commission Order 13: Predatory and Furbearing Mammals

No changes were recommended from last year.

### Commission Order 15: Pheasant

No changes were recommended from last year.

Commission Order 17: Chukar Partridge

No changes were recommended from last year.

Commission Order 18: Blue Grouse

No changes were recommended from last year.

**Motion:** Gilstrap moved and Carter seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDERS 11: TREE SQUIRREL; 12: COTTONTAIL RABBIT; 13: PREDATORY AND FURBEARING MAMMALS; 15: PHEASANT; 17: CHUKAR PARTRIDGE AND 18: BLUE GROUSE AS PRESENTED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commission Order 14: Other Birds and Mammals

The Department recommended a season for prairie dogs. The season would be open from July 1, 2001, to March 31, 2002 and June 16 to June 20, 2001. No other changes were recommended from last year.

Ms. Supplee noted that Rule R12-4-309 would limit some of the units with elk hunts to harvest of prairie dogs with a centerfire rifle. Hunting with a shotgun could occur during the red-marked days (Unit 10 was given as an example). Units south of Interstate 40 (e.g., Unit 18) would not be included in the restricted hunt rule. In proximate geographic areas of the state on those days, an individual could still prairie dog hunt.

**Public comment**

Desiree Johnson, representing self, supported the seasonal ban on the shooting of prairie dogs. She read an excerpt from research done by a geneticist who studied Gunnison's prairie dogs.

Max Johnson, Director of Administrative Computing at Northern Arizona University, supported a hunting season on Gunnison's prairie dogs.

Jennifer Verdolin, representing self, supported a hunting season on Gunnison's prairie dogs as proposed. She suggested that there be a ban on shooting all prairie dogs in Seligman (the black-footed ferret reintroduction area).

Con Slobodchikoff, representing self, had a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and worked with prairie dogs for more than 15 years. He supported a hunting season on prairie dogs. He spoke regarding the replacement rate of existing populations. In most years, there was not an increase in prairie dog populations. Studies of black-tailed prairie dogs have shown that shooting can wipe out up to 35% of the adults in a colony in a few weeks. If there was no replacement rate in a colony, additional shooting can decimate a colony to the point where the population starts to drop below levels where it can recover.

Sandy Bahr, representing the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club, was not present but left written comment, which was read into the record by Chairman Manning. She asked that a season be established for Gunnison's prairie dogs.

D. J. Schubert, representing the Animal Defense League of Arizona, chose not to speak but noted on the blue slip support for the prairie dog hunting season.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 14: OTHER BIRDS AND MAMMALS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

**Vote:** Golightly, Carter and Gilstrap – Aye  
Chilton – Nay  
Chair voted Nay  
Motion passed 3 to 2

#### Commission Order 16: Quail

No changes were recommended from last year. The season dates for the falconry only season was recommended to begin September 1 and end on October 12. Falconry is also a legal method of take during the general quail season, allowing falconers to hunt quail 167 days (September 1 through October 11).

A second research project was just completed on Mearns' quail that affirmed what was written by the first researcher in 1977. Both studies showed climatic factors and subsequent food production, rather than sport hunting, were responsible for population fluctuations in both hunted and unhunted study areas. Kirby Bristow's recent research report showed there was a bounce factor for all quail in response to hunting pressure. Mr. Bristow was present at today's meeting.

These animals are a "compensatory model" as far as the fact that hunter harvest was not additive to other mortality factors. These birds would probably not survive if they were not removed by hunters.

The Department made an adjustment in the opening date for Mearns' quail. It should be November 23, which was one week later than originally proposed. All quail hunts would have a common closure of February 11. Bag limit was to be 15 birds per day/possession of 30 after opening day, which no more than 15 may be taken in any one day.

#### **Public comment**

Michael Marks, President of the Desert Hawking Club, requested a year long quail season for falconry. The request had nothing to do with quail harvest or populations; falcons do not affect quail populations whatsoever. This was about keeping the birds fit and having them hunt wild quarry. Falconers were willing to not fly their birds during April, May or June quail hunts.

Fred Arbona, representing the Arizona Quail Alliance, distributed a chart to the Commission (Hypothetical Comparison of a 15-Bird Limit vs. a 10-Bird Bag Limit/Hypothetical Harvest Distribution if a 10-Bird Bag Limit Had Been in Effect. Also

distributed were some observations and questions that arose from what was witnessed in the field this past Mearns' quail season and news article by DeWayne Smith in *The Arizona Republic*. The Mearns' quail population did not exist this year in the Arivacas; it was a boom year in the areas around Sonoita to the Huachucas to the Patagonias. Forty three canyons are in the Atascosas. The canyons are about one mile apart and each has a dirt road. The birds have one-half mile buffer to get away from hunters; by December 10 or 15, there is no where for them to go. The birds started acting very interestingly:

- 1) They started running
- 2) They posted guards so the rest of the covey to run
- 3) When a point would take place, they dispersed in all directions
- 4) By the fourth week, they started climbing to the highest most unaccessible areas; however, they only had one-half mile to travel before going to the next canyon.

Another factor was humidity affecting Mearns' populations. The dew point at 10:30 a.m. in 1999, was 6-8%. During 2000-2001, the humidity was 30-36%. The difference is tenfold when hunting quail with bird dogs. At the end of the 2000-2001 quail hunting season, there were 1-2 birds per covey. He suspected that a lot of birds were killed because of their small coveys.

In the beginning of the season, Mearns' quail can barely fly, unlike the Gambel and the scaled quail. This bird is very vulnerable. Because of this, along with the behavior of the bird and the 15 bird limit, the quality of the Mearns' quail season was being skewed. A lot of birds are taken by hunters early in the season. It will take two years for the birds to bounce back; there must be caution. The bag limit should be for 10 birds. If the harvest was limited in the beginning of the season, the quail populations would be spread out. Benefits would be:

- 1) The birds have more time to adjust
- 2) Greater number of birds in the field for residents and nonresident hunters
- 3) Better hunter distribution because of better coveys throughout its range
- 4) Larger covey sizes, especially during the coldest weather
- 5) Arizona Game and Fish Commission looks good

Commissioner Chilton thanked Mr. Arbona for his presentation and asked him to share his information with the Department.

Dr. Tad Pfister, representing the Arizona Quail Alliance, stated he held a veterinary degree as well as a degree in biology. He studied literature on Mearns' quail and had discussed the Mearns' status and had been in the field with Forest Service range supervisors, ranchers, hunters and guides. Ten years ago he began to collect Mearns' crop samples from hunter clients. He conducted plant studies. He also became interested in the symbiotic relationship between livestock grazing and Mearns' quail habitat. When he contacted the Game and Fish Department, he was told the Department had no interest at that time and that the bulk of the studies were on livestock grazing and its affect on quail populations. The Mearns' quail populations faced devastation and slaughter this past season. Due to unusual weather conditions in Santa Cruz County in one small area last year, the Mearns' had an extraordinary hatch and chick survival rate.

This fact was advertised by the Department. This, combined with the decrease in the scaled and Gambel quail populations in Arizona and in neighboring states, resulted in 4-5 times pressure on the Mearns'. He stated he was drafting a petition to influence political bodies to declare the Mearns' quail a trophy bird. He was certain the Mearns' quail populations would decline this year if there was not extraordinary weather and abundant insects.

Dr. Pfister cited the recent Mearns' quail study report (August 2000). He felt, as a biologist, that the only time hunting was compensatory to game survival was when the food habitat was insufficient to support the population. This was not the case with the Mearns' quail. He recommended a bag limit of 10 birds and hunting hours from sunrise to 3:30 p.m., to allow the birds to call and re-covey and to protect themselves from the cold. He also recommended ending the season one week earlier in February because the quail start to pair the second week in February.

David Lukens, representing the Western Game Bird Alliance, thought Mr. Arbona and Dr. Pfister had outdated information. He thought that just about everything that was stated by Mr. Arbona flies in the face of true research and Department information. The science is to leave the season and the management as is. He recommended that a study group meet with Mr. Arbona and Dr. Pfister to compare notes and look at data. The Department has studied the Mearns' quail and what Mr. Arbona stated was not backed up by the science of the bird by Department recommendations. It has been proven that hunting does not hurt, and in all game birds, it is compensatory. He felt Mr. Arbona and Dr. Pfister were selfish. Scientific data has shown that birds can be hunted in Hog and Gardner Canyons and they will come back. Kirby Bristow's data showed humidity did not affect Mearns' quail populations. The Commission's decision should be based on science and not politics.

Troy Hawks, representing self, stated the Department needed to rely on scientific findings. Hunting and bag limits do not affect Mearns' quail populations. He supported the Department's recommendation.

Jack Simon, representing the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF), stated the AWF supported the concept of giving falconers a larger season.

Mr. Lukens stated lowering the bag limit to 10 Mearns' quail was a lie and would have no biological effect. It would be done to create a false impression and takes the focus off habitat. The quail season would have to be cut to 30 days in order to change the overall harvest; shortening the season was not necessary.

The issue was further debated between Messrs. Lukens and Hawks and Mr. Arbona and Dr. Pfister.

Kirby Bristow gave a synopsis of his research report on Mearns' quail. Small changes in hunting bag limits and season lengths have no effect on quail populations. He addressed the effects of hunted quail vs. non-hunted quail in an area. There may have been a higher mortality during the winter (October-February) but the mortality had equaled out by the time pairing season occurred.

Commissioner Carter stated he was not ready to vote for a change until the Department and other interested parties take a look at what those changes might be.

**Motion:** Gilstrap moved and Chilton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 16: QUAIL, WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT ON THE MEARNS' QUAIL SEASON DATE: INSTEAD OF NOVEMBER 23 AS RECOMMENDED, THAT IT BE NOVEMBER 30.

**Vote:** Chilton and Gilstrap – Aye  
Golightly and Carter – Nay  
Chairman voted Nay  
Motion failed to pass

Commissioner Carter stated he could not make a change based on perception. There may be lack of understanding.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 16 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner Chilton stated that Dr. Pfister and Mr. Arbona asked that they keep collecting data to contribute to the Department's pool of knowledge.

**Vote:** Golightly, Carter and Chilton – Aye  
Chairman voted Aye  
Gilstrap – Nay  
Motion carried

Commissioner Golightly recommended having the Department send someone back to Hog and Gardner Canyons to see if the recruitment was there. The Department should meet with both sides and come up with a protocol that might be used for next year. Ms. Supplee stated the research project had wound down and it would require redirecting Department resources. One of the ways the Department could be successful in this kind of an add-on effort is if non-profit partners could assist financially and with dogs to do an ad hoc follow up on these established transects using protocols consistent with the studies. Whatever was done should be tied into the research project's data sets and protocols so that there was comparative information.

Director Shroufe stated Game and Research should get together with voluntary partners. The quail study was done and the Department did not have the luxury of going back to redo its research.

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3. The Department will Ask the Commission to Vote to Approve Amendments to the Following Commission Orders to Ensure that Recently Designated National Monuments are Open to the Take of Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife: Commission Orders 25 (Raptors), 40 (Fish), 41 (Amphibians), 42 (Crustaceans and Mollusks) and 43 (Reptiles)

**Presenter:** Bruce Taubert, Assistant Director for Wildlife Management



Several new national monuments have been designated in Arizona by Executive Order of the President. ARS Title 17 (17-101.A.17) indicates that Commission Orders must actively open national monuments to the take of wildlife under state regulations. The Department is concerned that there may be confusion among the public and on the part of the national monument managers regarding the legal take of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

To eliminate confusion, the Department proposed specific language to be inserted into several Commission Orders that explicitly opens several monuments to the take of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. The amendments are for Commission Orders 25, 40, 41, 42 and 43, which would include the following footnote and references to it:

The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Agua Fria National Monument, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and Sonoran Desert National Monument are open for the take of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife as prescribed by this Order.

Pursuant to the provisions of ARS 17-234, this amendment to the subject Commission Orders shall be in effect not less than 10 days following Commission action.

**Motion:** Carter moved and Chilton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO COMMISSION ORDERS 25, 40, 41, 42, AND 43 AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT FIVE RECENTLY DESIGNATED NATIONAL MONUMENTS ARE OPEN TO TAKE OF AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE. THESE AMENDMENTS SHALL BE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2001.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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#### 5. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Carter referenced the Colorado River project and efforts being made by multiple states and federal partners. He asked if a briefing could be put together for an agenda item. Director Shroufe clarified this was the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Project.

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**Motion:** Gilstrap moved and Carter seconded THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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